(a) whether the only State University in Goa namely the Goa University, is proposed to be upgraded to a Central University;

(b) why the decision was taken to upgrade Goa University into a Central University, instead of setting up a separate University;

(c) whether under the scheme of the proposed Central University, students of the State would get reservation on the basis of their region; and

(d) if not, the details as to how the aspirations of local students would be met by a Central University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) On a specific request of the State Government for conversion of Goa University into a Central University instead of establishment of a new Central University in the State, conversion of Goa University into a Central University was included in the Central Universities Bill, 2008 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23.10.2008. However, in view of the subsequent request of the State Government as also the recommendation of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, it is now proposed to move official amendments to the Central Universities Bill, 2008 to drop the provisions relating to the conversion of Goa University into a Central University.

Development of higher education

†2227. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's approach towards holistic development of higher education has been very disappointing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that progress of higher education has been left at the mercy of private sector;

(c) if not, the details of achievement made during the last three years;

(d) whether Government is contemplating upon a scheme for holistic development of higher education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the details of proposals under consideration for the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Government has been making continuous efforts for increasing access, improving quality and ensuring relevance in the field of higher education as evident from the Eleventh Plan in this regard. While not-for-profit private participation only supplements Governmental efforts, and such participation has been mostly confined to technical and professional education, public outlays have been increased several fold for the Eleventh Plan.

A Central Act, namely the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 has been enacted to provide for reservation in admission of the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of citizens, to certain Central Educational

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government. A substantial increase in allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of National Universities aiming at World Class, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture.

Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in Universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system etc., Faculty Improvement Porgrammes and other reforms have been being taken up during the Eleventh Plan for improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

Five new Central Universities have been created during the last three years. While 8 new IITs have been proposed to set up in the Eleventh Plan, six of them have already started functioning from the academic year 2008-09 through temporary campuses/mentor IITs. Five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research have been established and they have already started functioning form temporary premises. Out of seven new IIMs proposed in the Eleventh Plan, one has already been established in Shillong which has commenced its first academic session in 2008-09. Two new Schools of Planning and Architecture have been set up. The National Institute of Technology Act, 2007 has been passed and enforced with effect from 15.8.2007. To meet the shortage of teachers in Centrally funded higher and technical education institutes under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and to make teaching attractive the age of superannuation of teachers has been raised from 62 years to 65 years. National Translation Mission Programme has been launched for translation of existing knowledge books in English into various languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. To encourage research, the amount of Fellowships under Junior Research Fellowships has been enhanced by approximately 50%. The Government has also taken a decision to revise the pay scales of teachers in the universities and colleges in order to attract and retain talented youth in teaching profession.

Abortion of minor girls due to sex education

†2228. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the news item appearing in the media wherein girls less than twelve years of age were reported to have undergone abortion;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that nearly 49 per cent girls in America give birth to children while they are still unmarried;

(c) whether due to sex education the same perversion is feared to set in Indian society; and

(d) if so, the proposed plan to counter it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.